

11/11/2021

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM

Meeting in Council chambers and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Gary Bauer, Harry Brumbaugh, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Richard Simpson were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council.

GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to accept agenda as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 10/28/2021 were presented to Council.

HOLLEN/SIMPSON: Motion to approve minutes as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS/SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Bills, adjustments and supplemental appropriations were presented to Council. Mayor Carman added one bill to the list for ALS Environmental in the amount of \$60.00 for the police department.

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve bills with addition, adjustments and supplemental appropriations as presented. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Purchase of hams for employees for Christmas.

Mayor Carman explained Resolution 2018-039 that had been amended in 2020 to enable the purchase of Christmas hams for employees in lieu of an employee dinner. He asked Council if they would like to do the same for this year.

BAUER/GEPHART: Motion not to exceed \$1200.00 for the purchase of Christmas hams for village employees. All voted yea.

B. Resolution 2021.039 – Fund removal at year end closing

The Fiscal Officer would like to remove funds listed on Exhibit A. The funds have a zero balance and are no longer active.

GEPHART/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to suspend the rules for three readings and to remove funds at year end which are listed on Exhibit A. All voted yea.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Income Tax Ordinance – Mayor Carman introduced to Council a previously drafted ordinance to enact a .5% income tax to assist in funding and supporting the Police Department. Discussion followed regarding the rules of ordinances versus tax levies and limitations. The ordinance contains several exemptions including pensions and social security, and it is on earned income only. The entire amount would go for the Police Department with additional funding being supplemented by the general fund. ARPA funds cannot currently be spent for a vehicle for the Police Department. Mr. Hollon noted that the village will soon be responsible for the cemetery which is going to need funding as well. He urged Council to plan out the path going forward and not to delay the decision. Mayor Carman stated he is more in favor of an income tax rather than a property tax. He noted that 214 residents in the village would be affected. Mr. Brumbaugh stated he thought Council should move forward on the ordinance. Mr. Hollon suggested RITA be contacted for firm numbers.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - CONTINUED

- Mayor Carman proposed changing office hours for zoning, indicating zoning is busier on Mondays than Fridays. New hours suggested were Mondays through Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Brumbaugh/Gephart: Motion to set office hours for zoning to Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All voted yea.

REPORTS

- **SOLICITOR**
None.

- **FISCAL OFFICE**
None.

- **MAYOR**
The Mayor reported that work on the Fawn Lane culvert will be starting next week. Also, revised plans for the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project (SRTS) are going to ODOT the next day. Cherry Street Phase II will go out for bid before the end of the year. Mayor Carman asked Paul Daniels about striping for Cherry Street. Mr. Daniels stated it was not in the plans for Phase I, but he would inquire. Mr. Simpson inquired about a crosswalk. Mr. Daniels noted that there are no ADA ramps in place. Mayor Carman reported that a public hearing for zoning changes would occur at 6:45 prior to the December 30th Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to recess to executive session pursuant to 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official inviting Mayor and the Fiscal Officer. Roll call was made. Recessed at 7:28 p.m.

Roll call was made. Council resumed at 7:47 p.m.

HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to revise position title from Office Manager/Records Clerk to Administrative Assistant/Records Clerk and to hire Carla Flannery at Step J for the position. All voted yea.

HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to approve pay raises for the following BPA employees to noted steps effective next full pay period following approval:

Kimberly Leath from Step:	A-3-J	to	A-3-K
Levi Accord from step:	E-5-N	to	E-4-L

All voted yea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh Parks, 502 S. Broadway Street, stated he was looking forward to working with Council as a newly elected council member. He also stated he did not support an income tax and a referendum petition will be circulated if it is not placed on the ballot.

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, noted he had distributed a handout of Resolution 2021.029. He stated the resolution only had one reading and it was an illegal resolution. On October 13th, he stated he sent an email to the mayor, solicitor and two council members and received no reply. Mayor Carman reminded Mr. Constable that he had a conversation with him. He spoke to someone in the state auditor's office in Kenwood and a liaison and they suggested that if something was not done, to submit the papers to them and they would send them to the fraud unit for investigation.

Mayor consulted with the solicitor and recommended the agenda be amended and add Resolution 2021.029 under old business.

Hollon/Simpson: Motion to amend agenda and add Resolution 2021.029. All voted yea.

Hollon/Simpson: Motion to suspend third reading rules. All voted yea.

Hollon/Simpson: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021.029 read by title. All voted yea.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:58: p.m.

Approved: December 9, 2021

Mayor: John M. Carran

Attest: Arnold Simpson